

What is claimed is:

1       1. A method of preparing information usable in theft detection using radio frequency  
2 identification (“RFID”) technology, comprising steps of:  
3              creating a unique correlator value, for a current transaction, as a function of one or more  
4 values; and  
5              storing the unique correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of one or more items  
6 presented for purchase in the current transaction.

1       2. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of storing the unique  
2 correlator value in a database of previous transactions.

1       3. A method of detecting potential theft using radio frequency identification (“RFID”)  
2 technology, comprising steps of:  
3              searching, in an RFID tag affixed to each or one or more items possessed by a shopper,  
4 for a correlator value; and  
5              concluding that selected ones of the items possessed by the shopper were not paid for if  
6 the selected items do not have an identical correlator value to the other possessed items.

1       4. The method according to Claim 3, wherein the concluding step further comprises the steps  
2 of:  
3              searching a database of previous transactions, looking for the correlator value found in the  
4 RFID tag of the selected items, prior to the conclusion; and

5               concluding that any of the selected items was paid for if the correlator value for that  
6       selected item is located in the step of searching the database.

1       5.      The method according to Claim 3, further comprising the steps of:  
2               initially creating the correlator value as a unique correlator value for a current transaction,  
3       using a function computed over one or more values; and  
4               previously storing the initially-created correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of  
5       one or more items presented for purchase in the current transaction, prior to operation of the  
6       searching step.

1       6.      The method according to Claim 3, wherein the concluding step concludes that selected  
2       ones of the possessed items were paid for if those selected ones were in the shopper's possession  
3       when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction represented by the correlator  
4       value was conducted.

1       7.      The method according to Claim 3, further comprising the step of remembering each item  
2       that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a  
3       transaction represented by the correlator value was conducted, and wherein the searching and  
4       concluding steps do not apply to the remembered items.

1       8.      A system for preparing information usable in theft detection using radio frequency  
2       identification ("RFID") technology, comprising:

3           means for creating a unique correlator value, for a current transaction, as a function of one  
4       or more values; and

5           means for storing the unique correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of one or  
6       more items presented for purchase in the current transaction.

1       9.     The system according to Claim 8, further comprising means for storing the unique  
2       correlator value in a database of previous transactions.

1       10.    A system for detecting potential theft using radio frequency identification (“RFID”)  
2       technology, comprising:

3           means for searching, in an RFID tag affixed to each or one or more items possessed by a  
4       shopper, for a correlator value; and  
5           means for concluding that selected ones of the items possessed by the shopper were not  
6       paid for if the selected items do not have an identical correlator value to the other possessed  
7       items.

1       11.    The system according to Claim 10, wherein the means for concluding further comprises:  
2           means for searching a database of previous transactions, looking for the correlator value  
3       found in the RFID tag of the selected items, prior to the conclusion; and  
4           means for concluding that any of the selected items was paid for if the correlator value for  
5       that selected item is located by the means for searching the database.

1       12. The system according to Claim 10, further comprising:  
2           means for initially creating the correlator value as a unique correlator value for a current  
3           transaction, using a function computed over one or more values; and  
4           means for previously storing the initially-created correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to  
5           each of one or more items presented for purchase in the current transaction, prior to operation of  
6           the means for searching.

1       13. The system according to Claim 10, wherein the means for concluding concludes that  
2           selected ones of the possessed items were paid for if those selected ones were in the shopper's  
3           possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction represented by the  
4           correlator value was conducted.

1       14. The system according to Claim 10, further comprising means for remembering each item  
2           that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a  
3           transaction represented by the correlator value was conducted, and wherein the means for  
4           searching and means for concluding do not apply to the remembered items.

1       15. A computer program product for preparing information usable in theft detection using  
2           radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, the computer program product embodied on  
3           one or more computer-readable media and comprising:  
4           computer-readable program code means for creating a unique correlator value, for a  
5           current transaction, as a function of one or more values; and

6 computer-readable program code means for storing the unique correlator value in an  
7 RFID tag affixed to each of one or more items presented for purchase in the current transaction.

1 16. The computer program product according to Claim 15, further comprising computer-  
2 readable program code means for storing the unique correlator value in a database of previous  
3 transactions.

1 17. A computer program product for detecting potential theft using radio frequency  
2 identification (“RFID”) technology, the computer program product embodied on one or more  
3 computer-readable media and comprising:

4 computer-readable program code means for searching, in an RFID tag affixed to each or  
5 one or more items possessed by a shopper, for a correlator value; and  
6 computer-readable program code means for concluding that selected ones of the items  
7 possessed by the shopper were not paid for if the selected items do not have an identical  
8 correlator value to the other possessed items.

1 18. The computer program product according to Claim 17, wherein the computer-readable  
2 program code means for concluding further comprises:  
3 computer-readable program code means for searching a database of previous transactions,  
4 looking for the correlator value found in the RFID tag of the selected items, prior to the  
5 conclusion; and  
6 computer-readable program code means for concluding that any of the selected items was

7 paid for if the correlator value for that selected item is located by the computer-readable program  
8 code means for searching the database.

1 19. The computer program product according to Claim 17, further comprising:  
2 computer-readable program code means for initially creating the correlator value as a  
3 unique correlator value for a current transaction, using a function computed over one or more  
4 values; and

5 computer-readable program code means for previously storing the initially-created  
6 correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of one or more items presented for purchase in the  
7 current transaction, prior to operation of the computer-readable program code means for  
8 searching.

1 20. The computer program product according to Claim 17, wherein the computer-readable  
2 program code means for concluding concludes that selected ones of the possessed items were  
3 paid for if those selected ones were in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an  
4 establishment in which a transaction represented by the correlator value was conducted.

1 21. The computer program product according to Claim 17, further comprising computer-  
2 readable program code means for remembering each item that was in the shopper's possession  
3 when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction represented by the correlator  
4 value was conducted, and wherein the computer-readable program code means for searching and  
5 computer-readable program code means for concluding do not apply to the remembered items.